K London - Society for the improvement of 2
AN Naval architecture.

ADDRESS

TO THE

PUBLIC,

FROM THE

SOCIETY

FOR THE

IMPROVEMENT

OF

Naval Architecture.

INSTITUTED 14th APRIL, 1791.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

THE plan of this institution has now been a sufficient time before the public to enable them to form a judgment of its merits. The attention of the Society has been solely directed to the general good, they are happy to find that the decided encouragement and support which has been already received from all ranks and professions of men, and from many of the most respectable characters in this country, fully justify their most sanguine hopes. They therefore think it a duty they owe to the public, clearly to state the objects they have in view, and the general tendency of their designs, in order that they may not be misstaken or misrepresented.

This

AN

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THE plan of this inſtitution has now been a ſufficient time before the public to enable them to form a judgment of its merits. The attention of the ſociety being ſolely directed to the general good, they are happy to find that the decided encouragement and ſupport which has been already received from all ranks and profeſſions of men, and from many of the moſt reſpectable characters in this country, fully juſtify their moſt ſanguine hopes. They therefore think it a duty they owe to the public, clearly to ſtate the objects they have in view, and the general tendency of their deſigns, in order that they may not be miſtaken or miſrepreſented.

The

The principal object of the ſociety, as the name of the inſtitution implies, is the Improvement of Naval Architecture in all its Branches: for it cannot be conceived that the ſociety have any idea of confining themſelves to one branch of the art, but that it is their intention to extend their enquiries and improvements to veſſels of every kind.

To promote this important object as effectually as poſſible, the ſociety purpoſe to encourage every uſeful invention and diſcovery as far as ſhall be in their power, both by honorary and pecuniary rewards.—They have in view particularly to improve the theories of floating bodies and the reſiſtance of fluids—to procure draughts and models of different veſſels, together with calculations of their capacity, centre of gravity, tonnage, &c. — to make obſervations and experiments themſelves, and to point out ſuch obſervations and experiments as appear beſt calculated to further their deſigns, and moſt deſerving thoſe premiums which the ſociety can beſtow.

But though the Improvement of Naval Architecture in all its Branches be certainly the principal object of this inſtitution, yet the ſociety do not by any means intend to confine themſelves merely to the form and ſtructure of veſſels. Every ſubordinate and collateral purſuit will claim a ſhare of the attention of the ſociety in proportion to its merits;

merits; and whatever may have any tendency to render navigation more ſafe, ſalutary, and even pleaſant, will not be neglected.

With ſuch objects in view, the ſociety thought themſelves juſtified in calling upon the public for their countenance and ſupport. That their call has been attended to, will ſufficiently appear from the reſpectable liſt of ſubſcribers. And as they have every reaſon to expect ſupport ſtill more effectual, it is with confidence that they repeat their ſolicitations for further aſſiſtance; ſuch as may enable them to extend their views,—to make experiments on a large ſcale,—to aſſiſt young perſons in the attainment of this moſt uſeful art,—and even to inſtitute an academy for the regular ſtudy, not only of the art itſelf, but of thoſe ſciences which ought to form the baſis of it.

But the ſociety do not merely call upon the public for pecuniary aſſiſtance: In particular, they ſolicit the officers of the royal navy and merchant's ſervices to examine carefully the hints, propoſals and plans which may at any time be laid before this ſociety; and to ſuggeſt any improvements that may occur, however minute they may appear to them; they being confeſſedly the beſt judges of the advantages to be derived from the facility of manœuvring ſhips, of the comparative excellence between one veſſel and another in ſailing, and all other deſirable properties.

They

They likewiſe ſolicit all profeſſional men, of what deſcription ſoever, employed in the conſtruction and equipment of ſhipping, to aſſiſt the ſociety with their knowledge and experience, and to forward the views of this inſtitution.

Finally they invite men of eminence in the mathematical ſciences, as well in London, as in our Univerſities and elſewhere, to co-operate with them in their views for the public good. And they will thankfully receive information from every deſcription of ingenious men, not only in this, but in every other country.

The terms of admiſſion into the ſociety are a ſubſcription of Two Guineas annually, or Twenty Guineas for life. To be paid at Meſſrs. Hankeys, Hoares, and Drummonds, Bankers; or to any Gentleman of the Committee.

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Wells John, jun.
Williams ———, Eſq; *Chatham*

Y

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Gentlemen

Gentlemen are requeſted to pardon the inaccuracie of the above Liſt, which has been drawn up i haſte, and to correct it. They are alſo deſired no to conſider it, however reſpectable, as the Liſt o the whole Society, many other Gentlemen havin promiſed their ſupport, though they have not ye paid their Subſcription.